

doors or windows in its sides. Learn from the Indians to blanket the body so as to diffuse the heat equally over the surface—and to avoid those channels for cold air, that in the case of ordinary bed-clothes are so apt to chill the frame at every movement. A knitted vest to sleep in, with no more than sufficient blanket over the chest, will be important. Our Canadian bedmakers are well versed in the art of closing the sides from the air. If our dwellings have neither furnace-heating, nor hot-water, nor steam-pipes, we may have at least a self feeding stove, and may regulate it so that the temperature at night shall never be excessive. As to the conduct of the currents of air which it sets in motion, though we do not say with the illustrious Dundreary that no one can understand the subject, it is yet one upon which no general consensus has been arrived at, so far as we are aware—and yet it might seem that if we can make one house comfortable, we can do as much for five hundred. The best test of all the systems, no doubt, is the having slept in perfect comfort, and the ability to awake in the morning with the thorax uttering no complaint, and the frame, generally, fresh and fitted for the business of the opening day.

The splendid new hotel for working-women, which has just been completed in New York in accordance with the bequest of the late A. T. Stewart, might well be considered as a normal establishment, for where is the city in which the young women engaged in factories, &c., do not need this valuable kind of protection? In the new establishment they are to obtain first-rate hotel accommodation at the most moderate charges. The building has many stories. The lower floor are fire-proof—the upper ones of hardwood on iron joints. We could wish they also had been cased with tiles or other fire-proof material, and as to the arrangements for escape from a fire, if such should unfortunately occur, we are as yet without information. We earnestly trust they will be sufficient, for in no form of construction could they be more needed, and this notwithstanding the partially fire-proof arrangements. The security of life should be as nearly absolute as it can be made.

In this fearful, if not unprecedented, Indian famine, of which we have written so often, the chief pressure of want might be laid upon the Government in any one of three forms—the want of grain and other food, the want of adequate relief staff and communications for transit, or the want of funds. Though the relative claims of each of these great needs have never, so far as we know, been indicated with full distinctness—it is pretty evident from all that can be learned, that money is the great requirement. From all the conclusions that can be formed upon the Imperial economy of this immense question, it may be affirmed that the need of funds should be covered from Imperial or guaranteed resources, and that it would be a perfectly correct and ultimately remunerative policy that the monetary operations for that end should be undertaken.

In reply to the House's enquiry as to the objections by the heads of departments to using the metric system, the Postmaster General of the United States says the only objections are the expense of changing and the lack of knowledge of the new system. The Secretary of the Navy says if the metric system were applied to soundings given on charts, it would involve a total loss of all charts. If the heads of departments have no better reasons to adduce against the introduction into the United States of that only scientific mode of calculation—the metric system—they ought at least to refrain from publishing them for the honour of the country.

THE FREE LANCE.

Two lady friends were conversing together. One was artistic and sentimental; the other simple and commonplace.

Queriéd the former: "What is it that has struck you most in life?" "My husband!" was the innocent reply.

It is the most dangerous thing in the world to attack an Irishman with the weapons of wit and humour. I have long given up the attempt, having met with so many discomfitures.

My friend Basileus was not so wary, as the following anecdote will show.

It was a glorious snow storm, and four of us, all drivers of the quill, hired a sleigh for a circuit of the mountain. I here declare that there is perhaps no mode of recreation so exhilarating as such a ride in such weather.

After leaving the Mile-End behind us, we pulled up at the toll-gate, the keeper of which was a queer looking customer. Basileus, spite of our warning, resolved to "go for" him.

"Irishman?"

"Yes, sir; only six weeks out."

"Like the country, eh?"

"Oh, sir, but it isn't the auld soil."

"You're right, my boy. The Green Isle above the world."

"Sure you're not an Irishman, sir?" with a queer look.

"Why not? Didn't I suck all my wisdom from a Kerry cow?"

The toll-man looked again at Basileus and said:

"Bedad, it must have been the skimmed milk that you got."

It was in front of the City Club, after dark. A gentleman, coming forth, was accosted by an old Hibernian cabman, who offered his services. My friend, who is fond of a joke, recognized the Jehu, and, in my presence, proceeded to draw him out.

He told a long yarn of a blind fiddler in Killarney, who swam over a very wide lake, accomplishing quite a feat. I was much interested, and so, apparently, was he; but when we expected him to express his enthusiasm, he contented himself with asking:

"Had the man a compass, sir?"

LACED.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

There is no country of its age which presents so many points of interest for the antiquarian and historical student as Canada. We have long desired, and have been often asked, to open a column in which such curious points might be discussed, where questions on such topics might be put and answered, and where the notes of searching writers might be considered. Our paper is acknowledged to be the most fitting medium for such communications, and we have therefore decided upon opening this column of Notes and Queries. We invite all persons interested in these matters to send in their questions and notes, and we have no doubt that, in time, we shall succeed in gathering together many curious things, illustrating many obscure points, and collecting the material for a most valuable volume.

We open to-day with a few articles which have been lying on our table for several weeks.

NOTES.

No. 1.—In the magnificent speech delivered by Lord Dufferin, at Winnipeg, prior to his departing from Manitoba, he alluded to Rainy Lake as an instance of a name that has been distorted by the ignorance of travellers. He stated that the real appellation of the well-known sheet of water was "Bene" Lake, from the given name of some or other *compagnon*, who either discovered it or settled on its banks. His Lordship gave no authority for his enunciation, and I saw lately that an old Hudson's Bay official disputed it. He said that, in ancient maps of the country to which he had access, he found the designation "Lac du Pluies," which is bad French for "Lac des Pluies," but conclusive as to the correctness of the present name. A further inquiry would be as to the reason why the beautiful lake has obtained the reputation of pluvial.

SCOTUS.

No. 2.—As a curious instance of etymological corruption of names I may mention a suburb of the great city of St. Louis, the Queen of the Mississippi valley, and now the fourth city, in point of population, of the United States. This was called *Vide Poche*, a name frequently met with in Canada. The first transformation in the mouth of American settlers was *Vid-Push*, but that being unmeaningless, it was further changed into the bucolic *Wheat Bush*, which stuck to the place for many years, until the authorities christened it *Carondelet*, after an old French governor of Louisiana.

J. L.

No. 3.—The French are just as skillful in barbarizing proper names as are the English. Somerset, in the Eastern Townships, is almost invariably pronounced by them *St. Morrisette*.

X.

QUERIES.

No. 1.—I should like to learn from yourself, or some of your many learned correspondents, what is the origin of the custom—almost universal in Lower Canada—of making tally, molasses candy, or *les on St. Catherine's Day*—the 25th November. My curiosity is the more stimulated to this inquiry from the fact that, last Sun-

day, I was plied with these sweets from rosy fingers until I had to call for quarter.

CRAIG.

No. 2.—Can any of our older men, whose memories go back for forty years, inform me whether it was generally believed, as stated by Sir Francis Hincks in a late lecture, that Sir Charles Metcalfe was sent over to Canada purposely to destroy responsible government?

HISTORY.

ECHOES FROM LONDON.

It is most probable that the Prince of Wales will be present at the marriage of the King of Spain in Madrid next February.

An interesting story is being told about the Duke of Edinburgh. One day he thought he would begin the tedium of life in Bosika Bay by a little music. The admiral and the chief officers of the fleet duly gathered on the quarter-deck of the *Saltire* to hear his Royal Highness perform. His music was on the stand, his fiddle was in his hand, and after a good deal of tuning the strings and rosining the bow the Duke made a start. But he soon came to a stop; then he began again, and again there was a halt. Then with a blush said, "I beg pardon, gentlemen, I cannot play to-day. I have forgotten the tune." So there was no opportunity of testing if music hath sufficient charms to sooth the savage Turk.

It seems that the Duchess of Edinburgh, on her recent passage through Paris, did not edify Madame Mo-Mahon. On this occasion the Grand Duchess excused herself. "She looked upon herself," she said, "as a person in deep mourning. Her father and brothers were at the war, encountering great dangers, while thousands of brave Russian soldiers had lately been killed." She preferred, therefore, to stay incognito at the Russian Embassy. As a matter of fact, the Duchess is in mourning for her cousin, the Duke Sergius of Leuchtenberg.

With the exception of Mr. Justice Butler, Mr. Theigier will be the youngest judge who ever sat on the Bench. Without any exception at all he is the youngest Lord Justice ever created. He is only thirty-nine years old, and has only been a Queen's Counsel four years. Such rapid promotion is probably unparalleled. What is better still, is that the promotion is thoroughly deserved. He has the largest and most lucrative practice at the common-law bar. As everybody knows, he is the son of Lord Chalmers, an ex-Lord Chancellor. It is rare indeed that legal genius is hereditary. There are many examples in late years in which the opposite has been proved. In politics the same may be said. Lord Beaconsfield, as is well known, desired to have Mr. Theigier as one of his law officers in the House of Commons. It is not always possible for even a Prime Minister to command a seat in the House of Commons. Sir Harding Giffard waited long without avail, and Mr. Theigier failed to command a seat at all. His father, Lord Chalmers, was long conspicuous in Parliament as a law officer, and went to the woolsock post.

All work at the clock tower of the Houses of Parliament has been completed, both inside and out, and the official report of the cleaning and repairing of the clock itself has been issued. By means of telegraphic apparatus added by Messrs. Dent, the clock now reports its own time to the makers twice a day, the signal passing on from the Strand to the Royal Observatory at Greenwich. At the commencement of this year the works were found to be getting very dirty, but its variation scarcely ever reached three seconds. The principal work besides cleaning was an entirely new escapement, as the old one of late had been getting very shabby. Two months previous to cleaning the Clock Messrs. Dent had to remove the escapement to their factory for repair. On that occasion, to avoid the public inconvenience of stopping the clock, they sent up to the Clock Tower a sufficient staff of workmen with chronometers, and at a good deal of pains kept the clock going with just the same accuracy as if it had been controlled by its pendulum. The new escapement is so constructed that it is impossible for its several parts to get loose, and its advantage over the old one is already apparent by the really extraordinary accuracy with which the clock has commenced going.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, FORT GARRY.—This building is situated within the walls of the fort. It belongs to the Hudson's Bay Company and was the residence of Mr. MacTavish, (deceased), and others of the Governors prior to the transfer of the territory to Canada. In it General Wolsley found shelter when he went up in pursuit of Riel. Governors Archibald and Morris have resided in it, and it will be the official mansion of Hon. Mr. Cauchon. In our illustration there is an open carriage in which are seated Mr. and Mrs. Morris. The other view on another page represents the entrance to Government House with its quaint old gate, which is a part of Fort Garry proper. Governor and Mrs. Morris are seen standing at this gate.

D. O. BOURNAY, M. P.—The member elect for Drummond and Arthabaska, was born at St. Pierre les Bequets, on the 21st September, 1834, of farmer parents. He was educated at

Three Rivers in the College of the Christian Brothers and at the English Commercial School of Mr. Thompson. He received his commercial training at Quebec, where he resided four years, whence he removed to the Eastern Townships, about twenty years ago. He is mainly occupied with commercial pursuits, his place of business being at Victoriaville, Arthabaska Station. He is also interested in farming. Among the offices of honour and trust which he has filled, we may mention those of Justice of the Peace, Chairman of the Board of School Commissioners, Director of the Arthabaska Building Society, of the Agricultural Society of the same County, and Mayor of Victoriaville. Occupying a central position for the greater part of the County of Arthabaska, his commercial relations with his friends won him a popularity which proved a source of strength to him during the late election.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MORRIS.—When the Hon. Mr. Morris was Minister of the Crown at Ottawa, we had great pleasure in publishing his portrait and tracing his career up to that point. Now that he has just closed a career of distinguished and highly useful service in the Northwest, we have great pleasure in reproducing his likeness, with some notes descriptive of his labours in that distant sphere. He has concluded five and a half years of official life, three months as Chief Justice—three months as Chief Justice and Administrator, and five years as Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba. He was during four years Governor of the Northwest Territories as well, and latterly Governor of Keewatin. From a return of the Senate as to his rule in the Northwest, we gather that he was the chief negotiator in the making of treaties, three, four, five and six and that he revised treaties one and two, while it will be seen from the last report of the Minister of the Interior he suggested the making of the last and seventh treaty, that with the Black Feet. Mr. Morris returns to his home in Perth, with the consciousness of duty well accomplished, and the respect of all his countrymen, irrespective of party, for his laborious and patriotic statesmanship.

THE IMPERISHABLE BOY.—The best authorities among scientific persons have long ago conceded the fact that it is impossible to kill a boy by any of the recognized processes of denudation. He tumbles off chestnut trees and falls down wells with impunity; he is perfectly happy in the midst of harrowing railroad accidents, and prematurely enthusiastic Fourth of July explosions afford him intense delight; the most persistent book agents have done little more than discourage him, and able-bodied strokes of summer lightning have passed him by with disgust.

Yesterday afternoon there was a persistent recurrence of ominous silence and hilarious laughter among the two dozen or more carriers of the *Free Press* that became so monotonous that we felt called upon to investigate. We looked, and behold! the boys had invented a new game, having all the elements of dangerous fun necessary to perfect enjoyment.

LITERARY.

JOHN RUTHERFORD has in press the "Secret History of the Fenian Conspiracy."

BRECHER is losing his grip. He lectured to a small audience in Springfield, and a considerable portion of that was made up of out of town people.

FROUDE is collecting materials for a life of Carlyle, a task which the Chelsea sage himself entrusted to him.

RICHARD H. DANA lately celebrated his ninety-fifth birthday at Boston, and among those who called at his house to congratulate him were Langfellow, Wainwright and James T. Fields.

QUEEN VICTORIA having recommended "Edgar and I," the story of a Home, for perusal to the Empress of Russia, a large demand for the book throughout the United Kingdom is looked for.

The third volume of Mr. Theodore Martin's "Lives of the Prince Consort" will be published early in December. As it must include the period of the Crimean War, it cannot but prove of great interest in connection with the all-absorbing Eastern Question.

MR. ELLIOT STOCK announces for publication a fac-simile reproduction of the MS. of the original draft of the "Christian Year," in the author's handwriting. The volume is dated 1822, and is entitled "MS. Verses, Chiefly on Sacred Subjects."

A ROMANCE, hitherto unknown, by Edgar A. Poe, has recently come into the possession of Mr. John H. Ingram. It is entitled "The Journal of Julius Rodman," and is a description of an imaginary "First Passage Across the Rocky Mountains of North America over a Route by Civilized Man."

The King of Sweden and Norway has completed a dramatic poem, entitled "Mime fean Upsala," the scene of which is successively laid in the Cathedral, in Odin's Grove, and in Old Upsala. This drama, to which Ivar Hallstrom has written the music, is now under rehearsal, and will be shortly performed.

HEINRICH KRABBE, of Stuttgart, is about to issue an unpublished collection of letters and papers by Goethe. The volume will contain the correspondence of the poet and Fritz Schobser, between 1808 and 1832; letters to and from Goethe's parents and relatives; and, finally, the poet's letters to Sophie La Roche, from 1772 to 1775.

FRANCIS HOBGSON BURNETT publishes a long card of explanation and protest—explanation of the manner in which her earlier stories, "Thel," "Dolly," "Kathleen," etc., came to be published, and protest against the conduct of the publishers who refused to respect her wishes for the suppression of those works.

AMONG the literary curiosities of the season is announced "A New Biblia Pauperum," consisting of thirty-eight books, engraved in 1470, which appear never to have been used in any book, with illustrative readings from Wolf's Testament, printed in a tawny type. The whole forms a unique volume, and will be issued as a memento of the Centennial Celebration, 1877, and the Welsh Quinqucentenary.